GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5641
ANSWERED ON:30.08.2001
NATURAL CALAMITIES
SURESH CHANDEL

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that our country is surrounded by vast hilly regions, deserts, rivers-nallahs and sea where one part of the country or the other faces natural calamities every year;

(b) if so, whether the Government have considered constituting and training an organized task force at district levels which is capable of handling natural calamities;

(c) if so, the names of States where such task forces have been constituted so far; and

(d) if not, the reasons of delay in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD Y. NAIK)

(a) to (d): It is a fact that given its vast size and geographical diversity, our country is prone to a wide range of natural calamities. It is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments to deal with such calamities: the role of the Central Government is of asupportive nature. As such the State level relief apparatus varies. The Central Government has, however, taken a number of initiatives for imparting training and providing other support to the State Governments.

It is for the State Governments to decide whether in their local circumstances they should adopt the district level task forces.